

Adopted Guiding Principles
for the Local Issues Task Force
Relating to its Study of the Forms of Municipal Government

Principles adopted by the Task Force:

1. Respect for voters -- Voters should have a say in any change in the form of municipal government.
4. Clarity -- The powers, duties, functions, and roles of municipal officials in the different forms of government should be clearly delineated in statute. Statutory provisions relating to forms of municipal government should be well organized and structured in statute to avoid duplication, confusion, and ambiguity.
2. Distribution of powers -- There should be appropriate and effective checks and balances within the municipal government structure to prevent the abuse of power and to promote effective government.
5. Flexibility -- Cities and towns should have appropriate flexibility in operating under a form a government that best suits their needs and circumstances.
6. Efficiency -- The forms of government under which cities and towns operate should promote the efficient operation of government.
7. Role and status of cities and towns -- Provisions relating to municipal government should reflect the role and status of cities and towns as political subdivisions of the state, subject to legislative policy directives.

Principle NOT adopted by Task Force:

3. Separation of powers -- Legislative and executive powers should be separated in municipal government.

During the May 23, 2007 meeting the following motion was approved:

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Dougall made a substitute motion to prioritize No. 1, Respect for voters, as the first guiding principle and No. 4, Clarity, as the second guiding principle and to adopt the other guiding principles except for No. 3, Separation of Powers. The motion passed unanimously.